

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Teknor Color Company

Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

Teknor Brightens Its Future by Implementing Lean Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Teknor Color Company is a leading supplier of color concentrates for injection and blow molding, extrusion and calendaring. The 35 people employed at the Henderson, Kentucky facility formulate concentrates for use with virtually all commercial thermoplastics. Among the end-markets served by Teknor are automotive, building and construction, medical, retail displays, and appliances.

Situation:

In conjunction with a corporate-wide Lean initiative, Teknor personnel contacted the Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist them with the development and implementation of a Lean program to increase throughput and improve productivity.

Solution:

KMAC's Lean experts conducted several Introduction to Lean Manufacturing classes followed by Value Stream Mapping training and then mapping of a specific product family. During the mapping process, KMAC showed Teknor associates how to follow a product from the office through blending, extrusion and shipping. Through the process, non-value added activities were identified. At the conclusion of the mapping event, Teknor personnel had developed a Future State Map for their production process that eliminated non-value added activities as well as an action list to help Teknor implement the Future State improvements.

KMAC taught Teknor associates 5S / Workplace Organization techniques and then facilitated the implementation of 5S in several areas of the facility. KMAC also led Teknor operators through the methodology of Quick Changeover / Single Minute of Die Exchange (SMED). Together, the Lean concepts implemented improved productivity and flexibility.

Results:

- * Increased sales by 20 percent.
- * Reduced costs by 20 percent.
- * Reduced changeover time by 40 percent.
- * Invested \$850,000 in plant, equipment and workforce training.
- * Retained 3 jobs.
- * Created 4 new jobs.

Testimonial:

"KMAC's Lean experts helped us implement improvements at our facility that resulted in big improvements in our productivity and flexibility in meeting customer demands. They also worked with us to put measures in place that will allow us to sustain our improvements over the long run."

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Bill Oeth, Plant Manager